

The Maryland House of Delegates

The House of Delegates is composed of 141 members of which 104 are Democrats and 37 are Republicans. Members serve a 4- year term.

Officers

House Speaker (elected by House of Delegates)

Speaker Pro Tem (elected by House of Delegates)

Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

At the opening session, the Speaker Pro Tem is elected first and the pro tem presides until the speaker is elected and takes the oath of office. (In practice the Speaker is selected at a party caucus preceding the opening of a session; in recent years the minority party has not formally nominated a leader to be presiding officer.)

Party Officers and Floor Leaders

The House Rules DO NOT provide for selection of party leaders.

Majority Party (Democratic) Floor Leaders

Majority Leader (appointed by House Speaker)

Deputy Majority Leader

Assistant Majority Leader

Parliamentarian

Majority Whip (appointed by House Speaker & Majority Leader)

Deputy Majority Whips (appointed by House Speaker & Majority Leader):

2 *Chief Deputy Majority Whips*

10 other *Deputy Majority Whips*

Chair, Party Caucus (elected by caucus)

Minority Party (Republican) Floor Leaders

Minority Leader (elected by Republican Delegates)

Assistant Minority Leader

Parliamentarian

Minority Whip (elected by Republican Delegates)

Assistant Minority Whip

Deputy Minority Whips (appointed by Minority Leader & Minority Whip)

1 *Chief Deputy Minority Whip* (410) 841-3258

6 Other *Deputy Minority Whips*

Chair, Party Caucus (appointed by Minority Leader & Minority Whip)

Committee Structure

The House Rules require Minority Party representation on each standing committee, except the Rules & Executive Nominations Committee. The Minority Party representation is required to be proportional to the nearest whole number of the proportion of Minority Party members of the whole House. To its staff's knowledge, the legislature has never had a third party represented in

the legislature. The House Rules do not cap the number of members on each standing committee; however no member may serve on more than one standing committee. See below for the current number of members on each standing committee and the number of subcommittees.

Appropriations Committee (27 members) (5 subcommittees and two oversight committees)

Economic Matters Committee (23 members) (5 subcommittees)

Environmental Matters Committee (22 members) (7 subcommittees)

Health & Government Operations Committee (25 members) (5 subcommittees)

Judiciary Committee (22 members) (5 subcommittees)

Ways & Means Committee (23 members) (6 subcommittees)

Rules & Executive Nominations Committee (23 members – committee includes Speaker, majority and minority floor leaders, chairmen of principal standing committees, and other members of *THE LEADERSHIP* – which, according to sources, no longer has Minority Party membership.)

Legislation

Typically, the majority of the legislation that passes is authored by a member of the majority party. Occasionally such legislation will have a minority party cosponsor. On important issues and votes, the majority party makes it clear that such matter or vote is a "party vote" which serves to prevent "cross over" voting. The Minority Party does not have enough members to block any legislation on its own.